

# DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES ADMINISTRATION



SOLA

## 2015-17 BIENNIAL BUDGET

ML Request	FY15	FY16	FY17	15-17
FTE	13.0	68.5	68.5	68.5
GF-State	\$595,000	\$2,770,000	\$2,556,000	\$5,326,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,144,000</b>	<b>\$5,327,000</b>	<b>\$4,916,000</b>	<b>\$10,243,000</b>

### DECISION PACKAGE SUMMARY

The Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA) requests 68.5 FTE to increase staffing levels in State Operated Living Alternative (SOLA) residential settings. This will allow DDA to address safety issues with night shift operations, increase behavior management needs related to client acuity, and provide administrative oversight at Yakima to be consistent with other SOLA locations. By funding this request, DDA will be able to meet existing client and staff safety needs at the adult facilities and at the Children’s SOLA near Spokane.

### PROBLEM STATEMENT

State Operated Living Alternative is a supported living service operated by state employees, operating programs in the counties of Spokane, Yakima, King, Pierce and Kitsap. The programs will serve people from anywhere in the state. One to four persons live together as housemates and share living expenses and staff support. Clients of adult SOLA programs have been assessed as needing supported living services to meet their health and safety needs and children clients have been assessed as needing children’s staffed residential services to meet their health and safety needs.

SOLAs provide a buffer in the DDA system of care that is crucial to diverting people with a developmental disability from being placed in a Residential Habilitation Center (RHC). Now that RHC admissions have been restricted, the SOLA program is caring for an increasing number of people who cannot be placed in contracted supported living because of challenging behaviors. In the past, these people were often admitted, at least on a short term basis, to an RHC. The training and experience of the SOLA staff allows these people to remain in a community setting rather than be placed in an institution.

Recent safety audits by the Department of Labor and Industries (L&I) at other DSHS 24/7 programs have resulted in safety citations, particularly related to staff safety during the night shifts, which were resolved by increasing staffing levels in Juvenile Justice Administration group homes. At the SOLAs, the standard practice is to have one person on the night shift alone, which should be corrected. This is especially important since the SOLA client acuity has increased and staff serve more clients who in the past may have been placed in a Residential Habilitation Center as a result of their behaviors. If not corrected, L&I could potentially issue a repeat serious violation since DSHS is one department.

There is one Children’s SOLA near Spokane. When it was opened in 2012 there was only one client and the funding reflected the staffing necessary for that. Since then, two more residents have been added to the program. All of the



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residents present behaviors that have prevented community supported living placements. There is a need for additional staff to account for both the increased clients and to address the safety issue of night time shifts.

In addition, there is a need for a program manager for Region 1. Yakima is the newest adult SOLA, created for clients who otherwise would have been admitted to an RHC. It began with only two clients and was able to operate without an administrator. However, now that the facility is fully staffed, there is a need for additional staff for the increased client workload and a program manager.

DDA has already begun hiring to address these safety needs. The SOLAs are not part of the Caseload Forecast Council caseload projections, so the program does not increase staffing when the client numbers or care needs increase.

### PROPOSED SOLUTION

The DDA is committed to supporting individuals with developmental disabilities to live in, contribute to, and participate in their communities. SOLAs play an integral role in supporting clients to reside in community settings. DDA requests 68.5 FTEs to improve client care and staff safety at SOLA programs statewide immediately in addition to mitigating the possibility of potential safety citation for not having enough staff available during overnight hours. In addition, the number and acuity of clients entering the SOLAs has increased over time. These resources will provide additional support to ensure our clients receive the quality of life and liberty to which they are entitled.

### EXPECTED RESULTS

The budget request supports DSHS Goal 2: Safety – Each individual and each community will be safe, and DSHS Goal 4: Quality of Life – Each individual in need will be supported to attain the highest possible quality of life. The alternative to continuing a viable SOLA program is that more people will receive temporary or long-term admissions to institutional RHCs. In addition, to continue the program in a manner that is safe for clients and staff, additional positions are needed for these 24/7 community programs.

The decision package is essential to implementing the DDA Strategic Objective 4.1: Increase access to home and community-based services and Strategic Objective 4.2: Increase the effectiveness of community residential programs to support individuals to have quality lives.

This request supports the Results Washington goal 3.2.b: Increase percentage of clients with developmental disabilities served in home and community based settings.

### STAKEHOLDER IMPACT

The Department of Labor and Industries, WFSE, SEIU 1199 and advocates of community services will strongly support this safety initiative.



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